



# Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 787-3904 · (717) 782-4011 FAX · [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Week Ending April 8, 2007

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**Poor week for Field Work:** This year's Easter snap really caused the temperatures to drop. At the beginning of the week the weather looked promising for fieldwork, but as the week progressed fieldwork seemed out of the question. Lower temperatures dominated throughout the state, and some areas received some snowfall. With a combination of wet, windy days and cold nights, many fields were unworkable. So far 14 percent of the spring plowing has been completed. Overall, 2 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included spreading manure and fertilizer, checking and servicing tillage and planting equipment, fertilizing pastures, picking up rocks, trimming brush, hauling manure, repairing fences, spring plowing, cleaning barnyards, and planting potatoes and oats.

## PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending April 8, 2007

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	2	60	38

**Crops:** Ten percent of the oats in the state have been planted. This is 18 percent lower than the previous year and 6 percent lower than the five year average. Sixty-seven percent of the winter wheat is in good or excellent condition. In most areas the wheat survived the winter very well and the crop is looking promising. Sixty-seven percent of the alfalfa is in good or excellent condition. Seventy-six percent of timothy hay is in good or excellent condition. Many of the state's cherry and peach producers are concerned how the weather is going to effect the outcome of this year's crop. Twenty-seven percent of the cherries have now entered the pink stage, which is 12 percent lower than this time last year. On the other hand this year's cherries are 19 percent ahead of the five year average. Twenty-five percent of the peaches have entered the pink stage. This is 28 percent lower than this time last year and 12 percent higher than the five year average.

**Livestock:** The cold and wet weather this week wasn't good for the pasture conditions. The weather has put a limitation on pasture activity for livestock. Overall pasture conditions were reported as follows: very poor 6%, poor 27%, fair 38%, good 27%, and excellent 2%.

**U.S. as of April 1, 2007:** Temperatures were averaging near normal across most of the West and along coastal Atlantic areas during the week, contrasted with warmer than normal temperatures over most of the Midwest and South. From the eastern Great Plains to the Appalachian Mountains, temperatures averaged over 10 degrees F above normal, and were near 20 degrees F above normal over much of the Corn Belt. Showers and storms that swept across much of the country resulted in moderate to heavy precipitation throughout the Great Plains and portions of the Ohio Valley, bringing generally beneficial moisture to winter wheat and pastures, but significantly limiting fieldwork opportunities.

**Winter Wheat:** Seventy-one percent of the crop was rated in good to excellent condition, compared with 38 percent last year and 53 percent for the week ending November 26, 2006, the last available rating for the current crop. Over the winter months, significant snow accumulations across the southern and central High Plains provided good protection for over wintering wheat. The northern Plains experienced milder and drier than normal conditions that kept snow cover well below normal, leaving winter wheat exposed to possible wind and freeze damage.

**Small Grains:** Barley planting, at 7 percent complete, was 4 points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the average. Twenty-nine percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, compared with 30 percent last year and the 31 percent average. Planting was most advanced in Nebraska, with 15 percent in the ground, 8 points behind normal. Planting progress in Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Dakota stood at 5 percent or less.

## Weather Data For Week Ending April 8, 2007

Station	Last Week Weather Summary							April 1 - April 8, 2007					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F	
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total	
<b>Northwest</b>													
Erie	78	24	40	-4	0.83	4	0.83	-0.01	4	17	17	54	
Franklin	79	20	40	-3	1.51	6	1.51	0.62	6	19	19	60	
Meadville	76	18	39	-3	0.40	4	0.40	-0.48	4	28	28	68	
Mercer	78	20	41	-2	1.94	5	1.94	0.98	5	27	27	68	
Springboro	77	20	39	-4	1.44	6	1.45	0.67	7	15	15	55	
Warren	78	20	38	-4	0.83	6	0.83	-0.06	6	11	11	50	
<b>North Central</b>													
Bradford Region	72	14	35	-4	0.59	5	0.59	-0.29	5	10	10	42	
Emporium	76	19	39	-1	0.57	6	0.57	-0.31	6	10	10	48	
Kane	74	14	35	-4	0.76	6	0.76	-0.20	6	2	2	32	
Laporte	67	17	35	-9	0.69	6	0.78	-0.03	7	5	5	28	
Lock Haven	77	20	41	-4	0.60	4	0.60	-0.20	4	17	17	54	
Port Allegany	74	15	36	-6	0.80	4	0.80	0.00	4	4	4	37	
Renovo	78	20	42	-3	0.44	2	0.44	-0.36	2	17	17	57	
Ridgway	76	15	37	-4	0.56	6	0.56	-0.32	6	5	5	40	
Stevenson Dam	78	19	39	-2	0.50	5	0.50	-0.38	5	13	13	47	
Towanda	72	18	38	-5	0.42	4	0.43	-0.29	5	4	4	30	
Wellsboro	71	14	35	-4	0.44	4	0.44	-0.12	4	5	5	35	
Williamsport	75	23	42	-4	0.55	3	0.56	-0.25	4	17	10	53	
<b>Northeast</b>													
Hawley	69	17	38	-4	0.96	2	0.96	0.11	2	6	6	30	
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	20	40	-5	0.41	4	0.41	-0.31	4	10	10	44	
Susquehanna	66	18	37	-3	0.61	4	0.61	-0.32	4	1	1	26	
<b>West Central</b>													
Butler	78	22	42	-4	1.21	6	1.21	0.36	6	26	25	67	
New Castle	81	23	43	0	0.86	5	0.86	0.06	5	30	30	73	
Slippery Rock	78	22	43	1	0.85	6	0.85	-0.01	6	33	33	76	
<b>Central</b>													
Altoona/Blair	78	21	41	-5	0.54	3	0.54	-0.32	3	23	16	60	
DuBois	75	16	38	-5	0.50	4	0.50	-0.38	4	18	18	55	
Lewistown	79	27	43	-4	0.52	3	0.52	-0.20	3	21	13	58	
Middletown	75	30	44	-5	0.10	3	0.10	-0.70	3	19	8	54	
Prince Gallitzi	79	17	40	-3	0.90	5	0.90	-0.22	5	13	13	51	
Selinsgrove	75	26	41	-4	0.54	4	0.55	-0.25	5	13	7	47	
State College	77	22	41	-3	0.71	3	0.71	-0.08	3	19	19	56	
<b>East Central</b>													
Allentown-Bethel	74	24	42	-5	0.90	3	0.91	0.03	4	13	6	44	
Lehighton	72	26	41	-5	0.55	2	0.56	-0.24	3	9	5	37	
Matamoras	68	20	39	-6	0.73	2	0.73	-0.26	2	4	3	29	
Mt_Pocono	67	19	36	-4	0.73	4	0.73	-0.29	4	3	3	28	
<b>Southwest</b>													
Pittsburgh/Alle	79	22	45	-1	0.69	5	0.69	-0.11	5	50	42	93	
Derry	80	22	42	-3	1.70	3	1.70	0.87	3	21	21	60	
Myersdale	77	19	39	-6	0.79	5	0.79	-0.25	5	10	10	44	
Mount Pleasant	79	21	43	1	1.28	4	1.30	0.26	5	24	24	68	
Pittsburgh Intl	79	23	44	-2	1.49	3	1.51	0.63	4	45	37	87	
Connellsville	81	24	45	-2	0.59	5	0.60	-0.36	6	32	24	77	
Waynesburg	81	23	44	-2	0.78	5	0.83	-0.09	6	29	24	73	
<b>South Central</b>													
Biglerville	78	26	44	-5	0.18	2	0.18	-0.70	2	21	10	61	
Everett	78	22	42	-4	0.78	2	0.78	-0.07	2	14	11	50	
Hanover	77	26	44	-5	0.21	3	0.21	-0.67	3	19	8	56	
Harrisburg_AP	77	29	44	-5	0.04	3	0.04	-0.76	3	21	10	57	
South Mountain	76	22	41	-5	0.25	3	0.25	-0.61	3	17	12	50	
York	77	24	44	-5	0.24	3	0.24	-0.71	3	20	9	56	
<b>Southeast</b>													
Green Lane	73	28	43	-4	0.71	2	0.73	-0.19	3	11	6	45	
Hamburg	75	27	43	-2	1.03	3	1.04	0.09	4	13	13	46	
West_Chester	78	26	44	-4	0.76	3	0.76	-0.20	3	18	8	55	
Lancaster	76	28	43	-5	0.38	3	0.38	-0.50	3	14	6	48	
Neshaminy Falls	75	26	43	-5	1.10	2	1.10	0.06	2	11	3	43	
New Holland	76	27	43	-5	0.49	3	0.49	-0.39	3	13	5	48	
Philadelphia	79	31	46	-4	1.35	3	1.35	0.39	3	19	6	61	
Philadelphia NE	77	30	46	-4	1.02	3	1.02	0.06	3	16	3	55	
Reading	77	28	43	-3	0.37	3	0.37	-0.59	3	19	15	54	
Valley Forge Na	74	26	44	-5	1.06	3	1.06	0.10	3	11	-1	50	
Willow Grove	76	29	43	-4	0.00	0	0.00	-1.04	0	13	5	45	

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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# Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

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**ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney** - This past week the weather in Adams County has been challenging for producers . Last week we had daytime temperatures in the 70's and nighttime temps in the 40's, then Thursday thru Sunday nighttime temperatures were as low as mid 20's - 28 degrees and some nights had some windy conditions. This is a great concern for the fruit growers as trees were pushing from earlier in the week. Daytime temps Thurs-Sunday were only in the 30's. No rainfall was received and some snow flurries occurred as various times Thursday thru Sunday but no accumulation.

Wheat and barley have progressed to the green stage now out of dormancy and starting to grow with warm temps beginning of last week. Some small grains were drowned out over winter from wet conditions. Some oats were seeded this week. Some preparation of soil was done last week, but some areas still lay wet in the county.

Some peaches are now blooming from early last week's warm temperatures. Cherries, plums and apricots are starting to bloom also. Apples are still in various bud development stages. All fruit growers are concerned as to what the cold temperatures since Thursday may do to the fruit crops in the county. Some nights the winds were more prevalent so temps didn't drop as low as could have been. Some growers said it would cause a natural thinning process with cold temps. Time will tell on how much it really did or will be affected for 2007 crops.

**ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr** - About the only fieldwork this week was a few acres of alfalfa seeding early in the week. Winter returned late in the week and slowed any soil warm up. Good week for hauling manure, picking up rocks, fertilizing pasture and wheat, and plowing on high ground. Too early to tell if there is any fruit damage due to the cold weather. Apricots and plums likely received some damage.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY, Albert Allison** - The weather has been cold, and a lot of the fruit trees don't look good. It's too early to tell how much damage has been done.

**BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier** - Some wheat top dressed and pastures fertilized in the past week. Soils still wet for too much field work.

**CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little** - The week began in the 70's and ended with temperatures dropping as low as 18 degrees. A 40 degree drop in one day. Many of the farmers were working on getting their oats planted in the beginning of the week.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS)** - It was an unbelievable change in weather from last week. Crawford and Erie counties were pounded by cold weather and lake effect snows. Some areas reported one day accumulations of 12 inches on Thursday with snow showers continuing throughout the weekend. Needless to say farming activity came to a halt.

**FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA)** - Very little wheat planted in the Clarion, Venango, Forest, and Warren counties do to the fall wet conditions. Many farmers getting ready to empty manure store facilities (too wet yet to spread in fields).

**JUNIATA COUNTY, Dave Stetler** - Even though the grass is greening, spring has taken a back slide.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger** - Cold temperatures are raising serious concern among tree fruit growers.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT)** - Timothy mites are active on timothy fields within the county.

**LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr.** - Cold weather is holding back the fruit trees, which means very little damage has taken place . Rain in the middle of the week slowed field work the growth of pastures and small grain.

**LEHIGH COUNTY, William Boyd** - The wheat came through winter really good. The principal activities this week were trimming brush, servicing tillage and planting equipment, selling the last of the hay, and spreading fertilizer.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield** - Couple nice days early in the week got things growing and helped dry fields out a little, but rain and the cold shot by mid week put a halt on any field activities. There has been little if any ground worked this spring yet or oats/grass seeded. Some wheat and rye fields were killed by geese again this season. Corn/soybean market continues to be a hot topic.

**SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer** - The beginning of the week was favorable with the weather conditions turning very cold and windy by the end of the week. The winter wheat and barley is greening up and looks very good at this point with on a few weed problems. There are a few alfalfa fields that are infested with chickweed; however, the remainder of the fields look good. Several fields have been seeded to alfalfa and oats.

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY, Willie Keeney** - Spreading manure, repairing fences, and cleaning up fields from November's high water were the main activities this week.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA)** - We had both summer and winter conditions this week. Almost 80 degrees on Tuesday and by Saturday we have some snow accumulation with a 32 degree high.

A few acres of oats got planted early this week. Spring field work is behind but could catch up quickly with some warm, windy, and dry conditions.

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Eric Oesterling (EXT)** - Extended cold weather with morning lows in low 20's for 3 or 4 days in a row has probably done considerable damage to fruit crops. Have not cut buds yet but expect severe damage to total loss of peaches and probably other stone fruit. We will see how much effect on apples which are at 1/2" green to tight cluster.

**PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 8, 2007**

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	14	45	23
Oats, planted	10	28	16
Peaches, in pink	25	53	13
Cherries, in pink	27	39	8

**PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 8, 2007**

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	32	58	9
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	5	27	56	11
Timothy clover stand	0	2	22	63	13
Pasture	6	27	38	27	2

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Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
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Harrisburg PA 17110-9405

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